



**News Release**  
**December 18, 2013**

**Contact:** KAGC President Andrea Clifford  
502-210-5403 (office), 502-262-0777 (cell)

## **Transportation Cabinet spokesman receives Jennifer Schaaf Award**

**FRANKFORT** -- Chuck Wolfe, executive director of public affairs for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, was announced today as the 2013 recipient of the Jennifer Schaaf Memorial Award for excellence in government communications.

The award is given to a state government communicator who shows dedication to the public interest in numerous ways, such as reliably providing thorough and accurate information to citizens and journalists about government matters.

Nominees for the award are selected by journalists. The award is presented by the Society of Professional Journalists, Bluegrass Pro Chapter, in cooperation with the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators.

Wolfe was selected for the award for his responsiveness to media and public inquiries, his news judgment and his ability to help government officials and employees understand journalists and journalism.

Wolfe exemplifies high standards in public service, said Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues and associate professor at the University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Telecommunications. Cross presented the award to Wolfe during today's Kentucky Association of Government Communicators holiday reception at Berry Hill Mansion.

"He's always responsive. He's always diligent. He always goes the extra mile," Cross said of Wolfe.

Wolfe said he was "flabbergasted" to be chosen for the award.

"I'm not sure I'm worthy of it, but it's greatly appreciated," he said.

Wolfe was a veteran reporter in the Associated Press' Frankfort bureau before joining state government in 2004. He was appointed as the top spokesman for the Transportation Cabinet in 2007.

Transportation Cabinet Secretary Mike Hancock said SPJ and KAGC "couldn't have made a better choice for the award."

“I’m incredibly grateful to work with someone of his caliber each and every day,” Hancock said. “Chuck is absolute tops when it comes to communicating issues in transportation. He has a desire to make sure the public understands what we’re doing.”

The award is named in honor of Jennifer Schaaf, a highly respected professional in government communications who served as president of KAGC. After she died in 1999, the Jennifer Schaaf Award was established to recognize government communicators who achieve the high standards Schaaf set and followed.

### **Jennifer Schaaf Award Winners**

1999	BRAD HUGHES Kentucky School Boards Association
2000	LISA GROSS Kentucky Department of Education
2001	GIL LAWSON Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services
2002	RUSTY CHEUVRONT Office of the Governor
2003	LISA LAMB Department of Corrections
2004	JILL MIDKIFF Kentucky Finance and Administration Cabinet
2005	VICKI GLASS Kentucky Attorney General’s Office
2006	JASON KELLER Department of Homeland Security
2007	LES FUGATE Office of Kentucky Secretary of State
2008	VIKKI FRANKLIN Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Award not given 2009 - 2012	
2013	CHUCK WOLFE Kentucky Transportation Cabinet